

When are advisories issued?



General (Rain) Advisories

General (rain) advisories are issued when rainfall equal to or greater than 0.20 inch is received in coastal or valley areas of San Diego County. This can lead to elevated bacterial levels in ocean and bay water, especially those located adjacent to storm drains, creeks, rivers, and lagoon outlets. The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) advises beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay water for a period of 72 hours after rainfall ends. **Signage is not posted for general advisories.**



Bacterial Exceedance Advisories



Bacterial exceedance Advisories are issued when monitoring (laboratory analysis) reveals ocean or bay water quality does not meet State health standards due to high bacterial levels. DEH advises beach users to avoid water contact at beaches posted with these white advisory signs.



Precautionary Advisories



Precautionary advisories are issued when dredging or other excavation occurs in the vicinity of coastal areas, especially coastal outlets such as lagoons and rivers, which can potentially lead to elevated bacterial levels. DEH advises beach users to avoid water contact at beaches posted with white advisory signs.



Outfall Warning Signs



Outfall warning signs are posted adjacent to storm drains, rivers, creeks, lagoons and other sources of runoff leading to the ocean. Beach users are advised to avoid contact with runoff and recreational waters within at least 75 feet from where runoff enters ocean and bay waters.

